



Louis H. Bruni
County Judge

1000 Houston St. 3rd Floor
Laredo, Texas 78040

(956) 523-4600
Fax (956) 523-5065

WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 6, 2003

CONTACT: Raul Casso
(956) 523-4600

WEBB COUNTY RECEIVES INITIAL APPROVAL ON FIFTH BRIDGE APPLICATION; TXDOT GIVES COUNTY GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED

WEBB COUNTY, Texas – Webb County has received approval from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to proceed with its application for a fifth international bridge, Webb County Judge Louis H. Bruni announced today.

“This is great news for the citizens of Webb County,” said Bruni. “Webb County families are one step closer to benefiting from long-term bridge revenues that will support services like health care and public safety while keeping property taxes in check.”

Bruni said he received a hand-delivered letter late yesterday afternoon from TXDOT’s district office in Laredo notifying him of the approval to proceed by TXDOT’s Environmental Affairs Division.

TXDOT approved Webb County’s Environmental Assessment as technically complete, with recommended minor revisions due to Congress’ recent creation of the Department of Homeland Security which changed some of the administrative procedures for the bridge application process.

“The County will now submit to TXDOT our comprehensive bridge application, including the detailed plans and engineering studies, which were completed more than a year ago,” said Bruni. “The County’s team of engineers and consultants have invested

countless hours preparing this application, so we are delighted that TXDOT will finally be able to review and approve this very important project.”

“While Webb County is prepared to move forward with the bridge application on our own if necessary, we continue to hold out hope that the Mayor and City Council will choose to partner with us on this project that will benefit all the people we jointly serve,” said Bruni. “It only makes sense for the City to join with us on this mutually beneficial bridge rather than waste taxpayers’ money duplicating all the assessments, studies and detailed plans we have already completed for the application.”

“We would like the fifth bridge to live up to the name the County has given it: ‘Puente de la Unidad,’” concluded Bruni.

#